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- THOMAS, OLDFIELD, AND MARTIN A. C. HINTON. On the group of African zorils represented by *Ictonyx libyca*. Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 9, vol. 5, pp. 367-369. April, 1920. (New: *Pæcilictis*, type *Ictonyx libyca*; *P. oralis* from Suakin, Sudan.)
- WORTMAN, JACOB L. On some hitherto unrecognized reptilian characters in the skull of the Insectivora and other mammals. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 57, pp. 1-52; figs. 1-16. 1920.
- WROUGHTON, R. C. Change of coat in the common palm squirrel—an appeal. Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 26, pp. 727-728. October 20, 1919.
- WROUGHTON, R. C. On the genus *Tadarida* (wrinkle-lip bats). Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 26, pp. 731-733. October 20, 1919.
- WROUGHTON, R. C., AND WINIFRED M. DAVIDSON. Two new forms of the "*Funambulus tristriatus*" group. Journ. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc., vol. 26, pp. 728-730. October 20, 1919.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### A WORK ON THE COMPARATIVE OSTEOLOGY OF THE PROCYONIDÆ

Editor Journal of Mammalogy:

If your space will admit of it, I should like to invite the attention of the readers of the Journal of Mammalogy, and all others interested in the morphology of American mammals, to a work I completed several years ago on the "Comparative Osteology of the *Procyonidæ*." This memoir is complete and in all respects ready to go to the printers and engravers for publication. It consists of 122 type-written pages of matter, carrying 87 figures on 13 plates, and 7 text cuts; the figures are of natural size, and the work when printed will be a royal quarto. All of the skeletons of the procyonine mammals of the world are thus illustrated, including the Panda (*Ælurus fulgens*). The photographs are made direct from the specimens by the author, and taken on several views. The taxonomy of this interesting family of mammals is presented, and many of the osteological characters are tabulated. Most of the material was loaned from the Division of Mammals of the United States National Museum; so that when the memoir is published, the skeletons described will be accessible to a great body of students and mammalogists.

Just prior to the present war, a well known publishing house in Washington, D. C., offered to publish this work for \$670, which insured one thousand (1000) copies, heavy paper covers, and finest material in the market in the way of paper and binding. This opportunity was lost. It can now be gotten out by the same house for about \$1100, and it is quite likely that better and more reasonable terms can be made. The Elizabeth Thompson Fund of Harvard University has started a plan to publish it by allotting a bequest of \$200, provided the balance can be raised within a year. The President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has led me to hope that \$100 more may be obtained from the \$4000 on hand for such purposes.

My plan is to publish this memoir through subscriptions from individuals and institutions, much after the same plan as the writings of Garrod and of Forbes were published by the Zoölogical Society of London. Any one subscrib-

ing \$2.00 towards the fund to publish the work, will receive, carriage prepaid, one copy, or several copies at two dollars each; the same arrangement can be made with libraries. Then, for the sake of the advancement of the science of mammalogy, a certain number of patrons may offer larger sums.

When the entire amount is raised, the undersigned will take over the matter of publication, and the distribution of the copies when delivered to him by the publishers. There will also be published, following the preface to the memoir, a complete list of the patrons, subscribers, and others who have made it possible to issue the work.

Those who intend to assist in a pecuniary way in this project, may communicate with the undersigned. No subscriptions need be forwarded until it is announced that the entire sum has been promised.

Very truly,  
*R. W. Shufeldt.*

28th April, 1920.

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

It has been decided to include five numbers in volume 1 of the *Journal of Mammalogy*, in order that succeeding volumes may run through a single calendar year. The November, 1920, issue will therefore be included in this volume, and the second volume will begin with the number for February, 1921. The actual date of publication of the May number was June 19, 1920.

We learn from Dr. Joseph Grinnell that Mr. Joseph Dixon, economic mammalogist on the staff of the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, is carrying on a special investigation upon the fur-bearing mammals of California. Much of the past winter has been spent in the field, interviewing trappers, searching out dens, and getting photographs illustrative of the natural history of the animals. Such an investigation has been deemed desirable because the real economic status of several of the species is at present in doubt, because the amount of the annual catch which may be taken safely without endangering the breeding stock is not known, and because adequate legislation is needed under which the fur resources of the state can be protected and developed. It is planned to publish, as a contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, an extended report upon the fur bearers of California.

To those who have experienced the delights of mammal trapping, the pleasures of forming a collection of these interesting and beautiful creatures, and the fascinations of the study of mammalian structure and habits, the question doubtless frequently comes: Why are not more young people attracted to the study of mammals? There have always been many young ornithologists and entomologists, but comparatively few beginners in natural history have taken seriously to the forming of a collection of mammals. This is doubtless in a measure due to the fact that birds and insects first attract the eye; they are everywhere to be seen, and their great variety draws the attention of the youthful naturalist. But it is also due to the fact that there is more incentive for their study—others are doing that very thing and men, young and old, are mak-